



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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Release No. 12-06
December 28, 2001

CHARLESTON AFB ENDS HUMANITARIAN AIRDROP MISSION OVER AFGHANISTAN

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – Charleston AFB officially ended the airdrop of Humanitarian Daily Rations over Afghanistan on December 21. Since October 7, CAFB aircrews have dropped more than 2.4 million HDRs. These airdrop missions marked the first-ever combat airdrops for a C-17.

The HDRs were packaged vegetarian meals designed to sustain one Afghan refugee for one day. The missions originated in Germany and took an average of 20 hours to complete. The airdrops were performed at such high altitudes that the crews needed to breath through oxygen masks for three hours prior to the drop.

During the airdrops the aircrews also faced threats such as the enemy gunfire coming from the ground, though there were no reports of a C-17 actually being hit.

The C-17 has flown 57.5 percent of all Operation Enduring Freedom airlift missions and 75.3 percent of those flights have been done by crews from CAFB. Although CAFB crews are finished with the HDR drops, they continue to fly around the world every day.

An interview with the deployed commander, Lt Col John Zazworsky, will be available today at 2 p.m. He will be available for 15 minutes and will only give one interview for everyone who shows up. Interested media need to be at the Dorchester Gate no later than 1:45 p.m.

(For more information, contact Capt. Beth Szucs at 963-5537 or Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith at 963-5589)

(30)